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JUÜIAN L. SIEGEL Registration No. 22,407 Intellectual Property Division

Air Force Invention No. AFB00563

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 2023

16 September 2002

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Thomas C. Stover 22,531 NAME OF APPLICANT, ASSIGNEE, OR REG. REP.

> 16 September 2002 DATE

> > Group Art Unit: 1722

Examiner: M. Moore

SIGNATURE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re CIP Application of Joseph D. Lichtenhan et al Application Serial No. 09/783,719

Filed: 16 February 2001

For: ALTERING OF POSS RINGS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Washington D. C. 20231

Sir:

2 3 2002

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

In response to the Office Action dated 16 July 2002, finally rejecting claims 10, 12, and 16 -29 in the above application, it is requested that the following amendment be entered since it may place the application in condition for Allowance or in better form for Apeal. Accordingly, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the following claims per the clean copy shown below, as subsequently explained by a marked-up version attached as Exhibit A.